

**EVENING MEETING  
BOARD WORK SESSION  
FEBRUARY 17, 2000  
MINUTES**

The State Board for Community and Junior Colleges (SBCJC) met for dinner at 6:00 p.m. in The Edison Walthall Hotel, 225 East Capitol Street, Jackson, Mississippi, on February 17, 2000. Following dinner, those present moved to the Stonewall Jackson Ballroom on the 2<sup>nd</sup> floor in the Hotel.

Mr. George Walker, SBCJC Chair, officially called the meeting to order at 7:10 p.m. The following members were present: Yvonne Brown, Brenda Collins, Sara Fox, Joanna Heidel, Henry "Bubba" Hudspeth, John Junkin, Patricia Puckett, William Seal, Hazel Terry and George Walker. State Board for Community and Junior Colleges (SBCJC) staff present included Becky Cade, Larry Day, Deborah Gilbert, Olon E. Ray, Eloise Richardson, Wayne Stonecypher and Evelyn Webb.

Mr. Walker then called on Sara Fox to begin review of the finance agenda items as a Committee of the Whole. Items discussed included the following:

1. The disbursement of Education Enhancement Funds through February 29, 2000, as follows: Fund 4080 for \$2,326,286 and Fund 4110 for \$50,662, for a total of \$2,376,948.
2. The approval of the purchase of six mobile classroom labs from Modular Technologies, Inc. for a total of \$94,806.
3. A review of the FY 2000 appropriation using Fall 1999 enrollment data.
4. A review of the Legislative Budget recommendations for FY 2001 using Fall 1999 enrollment data.
5. A review of financial statements for funds 2291, 3291 and 4300.

Mr. Walker then called on Joanna Heidel to lead those present in a discussion of program agenda items. Ms. Heidel announced that there was no program business.

Dr. Wayne Stonecypher requested that Mr. Walker allow him to review with members two items he planned to present at the 2/18/00 meeting. Dr. Stonecypher explained that he would be absent due to a death in his family. Mr. Walker asked Dr. Stonecypher to proceed. He began by reviewing an equipment policy that the Board reviewed during their December meeting. He explained that the policy had completed the required review time under the Administrative Procedures Act and that staff had not received any revision suggestions. As a result, he recommended that the Board adopt the policy at the regular meeting on 2/18/00.

Secondly, Dr. Stonecypher provided a brief overview of current legislation pertinent to the Board and to the community and junior colleges. He reiterated the concern over a \$17-\$18 million shortfall recommended by the Legislative Budget Office and that thus far there appeared to be no relief. He shared that bills were to be introduced in both the House and Senate to consolidate workforce training and to transfer the vocational-technical funds from the Department of Education to the SBCJC. He mentioned that there were several bills to develop a Department of Labor, which would transfer the responsibility for workforce training to the newly developed Department of Labor and would in most cases direct them to use the colleges for training purposes. Several other bills were discussed. A couple of members expressed their interest in seeing that Senate Bill 2824 is amended to include SBCJC members as beneficiaries.

At the conclusion of Dr. Stonecypher's report, Mr. Walker called on Ms. Eloise Richardson to provide members with a briefing on the Adult Basic Education Five Year Plan for 1999 through 2004. Ms. Richardson explained that she needed the members to take action tonight that would give her authority to submit the plan to the Secretary of State's Office and to begin the Administrative Procedures Act process. Approval tonight at this Thursday evening meeting was necessary to comply with the required review time and to compensate for a short month of February. Mr. Bubba Hudspeth, so moved and Mr. Billy Seal seconded the motion, which was unanimously approved.

Next, Mr. Walker called on Dr. Ray to provide an update on the lawsuit with the Institutions of Higher Learning and the University of Southern Mississippi (IHL-USM). Dr. Ray first officially welcomed Ms. Brenda Collins back as a member of the Board. Dr. Ray reminded those present that the Governor had recently reappointed Ms. Collins to the Board.

Dr. Ray proceeded to discuss several aspects of the lawsuit in order to update members. First, he mentioned that discussions would continue with a tax attorney to determine ways to finance the lawsuit. The conclusion is that no public funds, including federal or state monies, should be used to finance the case. There was hope that the colleges could utilize funds from their foundations; however, attorneys advised that only foundation funds that were clearly delineated for undesignated purposes and accounted for separately should be used to pay legal fees related to the IHL-USM lawsuit.

Attorneys were also exploring the creation of a new, different Foundation to use to pay the attorney fees. However, a decision was made to restructure the Mississippi Community College Public Foundation, Inc., that was founded in 1991. The Foundation's charter specifies that the following SBCJC members will also be members of the MCCPF Board. The members

SBCJC Minutes: February 17, 2000

are Brenda Collins, Sara Fox, Henry (Bubba) Hudspeth, John Junkin and George Walker. They will serve a three-year term along with ten other Foundation members. Mr. Paul Breazeale of Breazeale, Saunders and O-Neil, has agreed to act as the Foundation's administrator.

Finally, Dr. Ray discussed with members optional funding sources. The sources will have to be sought from private contributors. Members were provided with an address to be used in donations. Dr. Ray explained that the colleges committed \$1500 each for this first payment. He also expressed his intention to allow staff to contribute. He assured members that he would never be made aware of individual contributions, but only how much was contributed per entity. Members asked Dr. Ray to determine if Mr. Breazeale was going to charge the Foundation for his services and if so, how much.

In other business, Dr. Ray briefly discussed with members the briefcases that were given to legislators. He explained that the briefcases were provided to members of the legislature by the members of the Mississippi Association of Community and Junior Colleges. The briefcases were a part of the MACJC's overall imaging campaign and were thus, recommended by the Godwin Group. Dr. Ray stated that he had full knowledge of the plan to distribute the briefcases.

There being no other business, Mr. Walker adjourned the meeting at 8:30 p.m.